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U K R A I N E

Annual “Information Fair 2008” Held in Ukraine’s Parliament

The 10th annual “Information Fair 2008” was held on April 17-18 in the Verkhovna Rada in Kyiv. Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy James D. Pettit and Deputy Head of the Verkhovna Rada Secretariat Yuriy Yasenchuk opened the event with a ribbon cutting ceremony.



Information Fair participant reads materials on legislation.

The Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and USAID’s Parliamentary Development Project organized this now traditional annual exhibition. First held in 1998, the event is intended to acquaint members of parliament, their assistants, and faction staff as well as the staff of parliamentary committees and departments of the Verkhovna Rada with the resources available to them in the international technical assistance community as well as from Ukrainian NGOs.

In his remarks at the opening of the event U.S. DCM Pettit emphasized how important it is for Members of Parliament and the staff of the Verkhovna Rada to understand the diversity of international technical assistance in Ukraine as well as the contributions that Ukrainian civil society organizations can make to the legislative process.

Fourteen of the 38 registered participating organizations this year were USAID funded projects. Also participating were other USG supported programs, nine Ukrainian NGOs (many of them partners or past grantees of USAID programs), as well as representatives of other donors or their supported programs (European, Canadian and UN).

USAID Graduates Fourth Group of FDI Professionals

A ceremony recognizing the graduates of the fourth cycle of the Training Program for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Professionals, which is carried out under USAID’s Local Economic Development (LED) Project, took place in Kyiv on April 24.



InvestUkraine Deputy Director Olena Hantsyak-Kaskiv (left) presents a certificate of accreditation to Oleksandr Dudka, Director of the Rogan Industrial Park, a communal enterprise in Kharkiv (right). In the background: LED Project FDI Advisor Petro Koshukov.

Twenty-three representatives from various Ukrainian regions received certificates, including employees of central and municipal government agencies.

The April 24 graduating class brings the number of FDI program graduates to 86 after four cycles. They are a core of professionals versed in financial and economic assessment of investment projects, industrial site and zone preparation, analysis of strategic investment priorities, marketing of territories, and presentation and negotiation skills. Their task is now to put in practice the knowledge they have attained, helping Ukraine to draw strategic investments.



The latest FDI program graduates.

Fast Lease Development in Ukraine

The "Leasing Practice in Ukraine" seminar was not for everybody and wasn't meant to be. Only the top managers of enterprises that plan to renew their fixed assets to modernize production, look to develop new operations and increase output, and consider different methods of acquiring fixed assets, took part in this series of specialized seminars. The informational events were held in several Ukrainian cities and were organized by USAID's Access to Credit Initiative Project (ATCI) in cooperation with the regional branches of Ukraine's Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs.

During each seminar ATCI advisors and leasing representatives gave overviews of Ukraine's leasing market, its dynamics and developmental trends. Experts discussed the various leasing mechanisms to purchase fixed assets as compared to other possible ways to acquire them (bank loans, commodity loans, payment by installments, and own capital of the enterprise), the regulatory environment and tax law surrounding leasing operations.

Representatives of leading leasing companies, such as Universalna Leasing Company, First Western Ukrainian Leasing Company, LLC, and VAB Leasing, also covered the terms and requirements

offered by lessors in the market, and provided recommendations on how to effectively use the services of leasing companies.

ATCI also provided information on its Certified Leasing Specialist Program, which helps to improve professional qualifications of leasing company specialists.

Unity Credit Union Works with the Farmer-to-Farmer Program

Last month, CNFA Ukraine began cooperating with the "Unity" Credit Union located in Marganets, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, to help it develop its expertise in agricultural lending practices and financial management and increase its membership and improve operations. Within the framework of the current effort, Farmer-to-Farmer volunteer consultant Michael Steele helped the Unity Credit Union develop its agricultural lending practices. He focused on improving existing agricultural lending practices used by the loan officers.



Michael Steele with the management of the Unity Credit Union, Marganets, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast.

As a result the credit union has been able to introduce a simple credit scoring matrix, which allows the loan officer to track problem loans and borrowers. The effort also resulted in the introduction of bad loan management techniques for the young Credit Union, which will help to improve the entire process from client assessment and collections to the most dire situation - repossession of assets.

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